



LANCASTER PUBLIC LIBRARY RULES OF CONDUCT

The Lancaster Public Library serves as a public center for information, education, and entertainment. Under applicable provisions of the New York State Education Law, including Article 5, Section 262 of such law, and the Board of Trustees of the Lancaster Public Library has adopted the following Rules of Conduct to ensure a safe and welcoming environment for all library patrons.

Library patrons are expected to:

1. Respect other patrons and library staff.
2. Respect library property and property of others.
3. Obey the law and all library policies.
4. Comply with all lawful directive and requests from library staff.

Failure to comply with these Rules of Conduct or any other established library policy, rule or regulation, or violations of local, state, or federal law, may result in immediate suspension of library privileges, including removal from library property, and/or, where necessary, civil liability and/or criminal prosecution. Persons who enter or refuse to leave library property after being removed may be charged with trespassing.

The following are examples of prohibited conduct:

1. Engaging in disorderly conduct, fighting, challenging another person to fight or provoking others to violence;
2. Deliberately disturbing or annoying other patrons, staff or volunteers, including by engaging in noisy or boisterous activities, playing any audio devices without earbuds;
3. Interfering with staff or volunteers in the performance of their duties or interfering with another patron's use of library materials or facilities;
4. Carrying weapons of any kind;
5. Vaping, smoking or otherwise using tobacco or marijuana products inside the library or within 100 feet of any entrances, exits or outdoor areas of the library (in accordance with New York State Public Health Law Section 1399-O);
6. Possessing, distributing or consuming alcohol or illegal drugs or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs;
7. Engaging in sexual conduct, lewd behavior (e.g., exposure or inappropriate touching) or sexual harassment of another person, staff member or volunteer;
8. Harassment or discrimination in violation of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Equal Employment Opportunity and Anti-Harassment Policy;
9. Making unreasonable use of the restrooms, including bathing;



10. Sleeping or lying down in the library;
11. Impairing the ability of patrons or staff to enter or exit the library;
12. Damaging, destroying, or stealing any library property or the property of another patron, staff member or volunteer;
13. Bringing animals or pets into the library except those required to assist patrons with disabilities or those involved in library programs;
14. Selling, soliciting, canvassing or petitioning without approval by the library;
15. Distributing or posting materials or literature that have not been approved by the library;
16. Food and/or beverages from outside the library brought in without prior approval.
Leaving refuse in areas other than designated receptacles;
17. Photography or recording of library patrons without permission;
18. Entering and using the library without appropriate clothing, including shirt and shoes;
19. Rearranging or disarranging library materials and library furnishings;
20. Loitering;
21. Gambling; and
22. Unauthorized requests for money, including but not limited to panhandling.

*Adopted by the Lancaster Public Library Board of Trustees at a public meeting on November 17, 1994.
Adopted as amended by the Lancaster Public Library Board of Trustees at a public meeting on June 13, 2019.*

Adopted as amended by the Lancaster Public Library Board of Trustees at a public meeting on December 8, 2022.

Adopted as amended by the Lancaster Public Library Board of Trustees at a public meeting on Thursday, July 9, 2026.